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PATENT**REMARKS**

Claims 1-26 and 56-77 are canceled herein without prejudice to their patentability. Claims 27-55 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

I. Response to Restriction Requirement

The Office action sets forth a six-way restriction requirement as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-26 directed to a chromatography stand, classified in class 210, subclass 541,

Group II: Claims 27-42 directed to a chromatography cartridge, classified in class 210, subclass 198.2,

Group III: Claims 43-55 directed to a chromatography set, classified in class 210, subclass 322,

Group IV: Claim 56-60 directed to a method of operating a chromatography column, classified in class 210, subclass 635,

Group V: Claims 61-68 directed to a method of loading a sample in a chromatography cartridge, classified in class 210, subclass 656, and

Group VI: Claims 69-77 directed to a flushing connector for use in a chromatography stand, classified in class 210, subclass 542.

Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group II for examination with traverse. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the restriction requirement between the claims of Group II and the claims of Group III.

Group II and Group III claims

The claims of Group II are directed to a chromatography cartridge for use in a chromatography stand. The cartridge comprises a tube for containing chromatography media and an end cap defining the closed end of the tube. The end cap has an outer face with a connector portion adapted for plug-in connection to allow fluid communication with the interior of the tube.

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The claims of Group III are directed to a chromatography set comprising a first tube, a second tube, and end caps defining a closed interior space of the first and second tube. A coupler connects the first tube and second tube in end to end relation such that the coupler is adapted for fluid communication between the first and second tubes.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the restriction requirement and, in particular, of the reason stated in the Office action for the restriction between the claims of Group II and the claims of Group III. It is stated in the Office action that the invention of claims 27-42 does not require the particulars of the invention of claims 43-55 and has separate utility. Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to consider that even if the inventions are separately usable, they are not materially different from a search perspective. Applicants respectfully submit that for purposes of issuing a restriction requirement the claims of Group II and III cannot fairly be said to be materially different.

Applicants also ask the Examiner to consider the relative burdens on himself and the applicants. In order for a reliable search to be conducted for either group of claims, both subclasses will have to be searched. Accordingly, maintaining all claims in the application should not add more than a minimal burden. Further, applicants have minimized any such additional burden by including only 29 total claims for the claims of Group II and III (the Group III claims comprising only one independent claim and 13 total claims). In this regard, the Examiner is asked to consider M.P.E.P. § 803:

"If the search and examination can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even if it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions."
(emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that the burden of examining the additional 13 claims having an overlapping search field cannot fairly be said to be "serious." In contrast, applicants would incur filing fees of at least \$1000, issue fees of at least \$1400, and maintenance fees of at least \$7000 if required to prosecute and maintain a second application/patent, such fees

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being in addition to the similar fees to be incurred in this first application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to withdraw the restriction requirement.

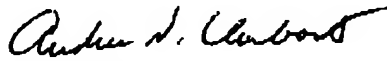
As required by 37 CFR 1.143, applicant provisionally elects the Group II claims for prosecution (claims 27-42) in the event that the restriction requirement is made final.

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Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 27-55 is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be due for the timely submission of this response. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345 in the name of Senniger Powers.

Respectfully submitted,



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